

## WDFW Help

### **How does the special permit drawing work? I heard you square points. Does that improve my drawing odds?**

Each special permit category has a separate random drawing. Building special permit points gives applicants a better chance in these drawings.

The special permit drawing system is similar to pulling tickets out of a barrel. Building points gives an applicant more tickets. The system also squares points. That means a person with one point ends up with one entry ( $1 \times 1 = 1$ ) and a person with 10 points ends up with 100 entries ( $10 \times 10 = 100$ ).

The system randomly pulls out all these tickets in order. At the end, each application will keep and use the lowest number it drew. Lower numbers are better in this case, as an application assigned the number one earns the first overall pick. With more points, an application has a better chance of drawing a better pick.

The system moves down the list of applications, checking hunt choices to see if it can award a permit. For example, if the first hunt choice is no longer available, then the second hunt choice is checked. If the second is not available, then the third choice is checked. If none of the hunt choices has a permit to award, then the applicant earns a point and the system moves on to the next application.

It is important to think about the order and the amount of your hunt choices. If you only want to hunt one location, you will want to select only one hunt choice. In this case, drawing a permit is tougher because the system only considers that one choice. However, you do not risk losing your points to a second or third hunt choice you did not really want. If you are open to drawing several different hunts, using extra hunt choices increases your odds.

The weighted points system improves your odds, but the drawing is still random. Many factors affect the odds. The number of permits offered for a hunt is a major factor. Some hunts have only one permit to award while others have as many as 750.

You also need to consider what hunt choices the applications ahead of you submitted. If they all submitted different choices, you could draw a hunt even if your application is way down the list. On the same note, your application could have the second overall pick, but if the application ahead of you chose the same hunt, and if that hunt has only one permit to award, you would not draw a permit from the second spot and instead would earn a point for next year.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/help/questions/214/>